

Seattle Human Rights Commission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 3, 2011, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
City Hall - Boards and Commissions Room

Commissioners Present: Jessica Andrade, Damien Carter, Nika Dahlbacka, Joshua Marshall, Andrea Negrete, Merri Ann Osborne, Marty Penner, Michael Plengrat, Mica Powers, Christopher Stearns, Jennifer Yogi

Commissioners Absent: Jesse Aspuria, Marsha Mavunkel, Mariah Ortiz, Greg Ramirez, Roslyn Solomon

SOCR Staff Present: Felicia Yearwood, Julie Nelson

Guests: Council Member Bruce Harrell, Hazelruth Adams

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: November 2011 minutes were approved as read

Council Member Harrell:

- CM Harrell will chair the Public Safety, Civil Rights, and Technology Committee for 2012
- Twenty body cameras have been deployed by SPD traffic enforcement; West Precinct patrol officers will begin using them soon
- Civil rights protections for people with arrest and conviction records will likely be proposed in 2012; first for employment, then for housing
- Continuing to analyze recognition of the Duwamish Tribe
- CM Harrell is seeking to bring civil and human rights to the forefront in his second term

SOCR report and RSJI presentation:

- SOCR has settled five of the six director's charges resulting from testing
- City council restored budget funds for SHRC staff and consultants
- City Council established an Office for Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, and therefore eliminated Rosalinda Hoskins' position

- Thanks to Chris Stearns for sitting on interview panel for Civil Rights Analyst; Joshua Marshall will sit on panel for Enforcement Manager
- SOCR will continue conversation about hate crimes and their causation
- SOCR sees linkages between the RSJI and the UN Convention to End Racial Discrimination
- Julie Nelson shared a powerpoint presentation on the RSJI strategic planning process and emergent themes

Committee Reports:

Police Accountability

Chris Stearns distributed a draft of the report on Police Civilian Oversight. Commissioners to review and comment by Monday. Will share with selected officials and the Office of Professional Accountability Review Board prior to issuance.

Right to Food

Seattle University Business School will host a forum on the right to food on Wednesday January 11, 2012.

SHRC History Project

Merri Ann Osborne has conducted research at the City archives. Mica Powers and Nika Dahlbacka expressed interest in assisting with the project. Mariah Ortiz will seek a graduate student to assist.

Human Rights Analysis Tool

Hazelruth Adams, graduate student at the Evans School introduced herself and expressed interest in working on the project.

Appeals

Jennifer Yogi and Michal Plengrat are scheduled to serve on the December panel – one additional commissioner is needed. Jennifer will discuss changing the appeal panel meeting time with Carlton Seu.

Criminal Records

Next meeting December 13th 12:00 noon at SOCR

New Business

Endorsement request

Washington CAN asked the Commission to endorse its report. The Executive Committee voted to endorse and seeks ratification from the full commission.

MOTION: To ratify endorsement. ACTION: Passed

Marriage Equality

Chris distributed a draft motion in support of marriage equality.

MOTION: To issue resolution subject to revision by the rapid response team. ACTION: Passed

Announcements:

Human Rights Day, December 8th 6:00 p.m. City Hall

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.